

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



Information Letter



FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

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Room Reservations for Convention

As announced in last week's Information Letter, the next annual convention of the Association will be held at the Stevens Hotel in Chicago the week of January 19, 1931. Arrangements have been made with the Stevens Hotel by which members of the Association will, if they desire, be assigned to the same rooms that they have occupied at the previous conventions held at the Stevens. A special notice with regard to room reservations will later be mailed by the Association to each member. Pending this notice, however, members who desire may advise the Association as to the reservations they wish to have made.

Change in Hour for Radio Programs

As the address by President Hoover before the annual convention of the American Red Cross on the morning of May 5th will be broadcast by both the National Broadcasting Company and the Columbia System on a coast-to-coast hook-up, the program of the National Canners Association for that day will not be carried in the Eastern and Central states. The Red Cross event will begin at 10.30 A. M. Eastern Standard Time.

Attention is again called to the change of time in the Hour of the Canny Cook. Beginning with the program for April 28th, the program goes on the air at 10.45 A. M. Eastern Standard Time and 9.45 A. M. Central Standard Time. This change is due to the fact that on April 27th New York City goes on Day-light Saving Time. No change occurs in the time of the program for the West Coast and Mountain states. On the Coast the

programs will be carried at 11.45 A. M. and the Mountain states at 12.45 P. M.

With this week's Information Letter members will receive a bulletin which is being distributed to canners, brokers, and distributors, outlining future programs. Members are urged not only to arrange to hear these programs themselves, but also to circulate the program information to their customers.

Amendment to Labeling Bill Proposed

An amendment to the McNary labeling bill (S. 1133) has been introduced by Senator Copeland of New York and referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry. This amendment prescribes the procedure in formulating and promulgating the standards to be established under the provisions of this bill. This procedure does not differ materially from that usually set up by the Department of Agriculture in handling such matters, but the amendment proposed by Senator Copeland writes this procedure into the law. The amendment makes the following provisions:

"The Secretary of Agriculture shall direct the food standards committee, or such other standards agency as he may establish in the food and drug administration of the department, to determine upon and publish from time to time tentative standards and forms of statements. No such tentative standard or form of statement shall be determined upon except after reasonable public notice and full opportunity for public hearing of all interested parties upon a proposed tentative standard or form of statement to be annexed by the food standards committee or such other agency at the time of such public notice. Within twenty days after the publication thereof, exception to any such tentative standard or form of statement may be filed with the Secretary. The Secretary shall, if exceptions are so filed, and may upon his own motion within such period, grant a review of such tentative standard or form of statement and, after reasonable notice to all parties of record in the proceeding before the standards agency and full opportunity to all such parties for public hearing before him, determine upon and establish and promulgate the standard or form of statement. If no such review is required or granted, the Secretary shall establish and promulgate the tentative standard or form of statement as the standard or form of statement. A standard or form of statement promulgated by the Secretary under this paragraph shall take effect at such time as the Secretary shall prescribe, but in no case earlier than ninety days from the date of promulgation thereof. The testimony and argument at any hearing under this paragraph shall be stenographically reported and a transcript thereof promptly filed in the department as a public record. Alterations and modifications of any standard or form of statement promulgated under this paragraph shall likewise be subject to the foregoing procedure. The Secretary is authorized to make such procedural regulations as may be necessary for the purposes of this paragraph."

Tariff Conferees Ready to Make Partial Report

The House and Senate conferees have completed their work on amendments made by the Senate to the tariff bill, except those relating to the export debenture plan, the flexible tariff, and the rates on sugar, cement, lumber, shingles and silver.

It is understood that the conference report will be considered first in the House, which will vote on the administrative features and the five rate items upon which the conferees failed to reach agreement. If the House insists upon retaining these provisions as carried in the House bill, the measure will then go back to conference. It is also understood that the conference report will be ready by Tuesday, April 29, and will probably come up in the House on May 1.

The conferees approved the following Senate amendments to the tariff bill:

Requiring the Tariff Commission to convert into equivalent ad valorem rates on the basis of domestic valuation the tariff duties in effect between July 1, 1927, and June 30, 1929. The Senate language directing the Commission to determine the relative costs of crude petroleum at refineries from the United States and from Venezuela was accepted.

Providing for the entry of merchandise on carriers' certificate or duplicate bill of lading.

Incorporating in the bill more definite directions as to the marking of imported articles and the exceptions which may be allowed from this requirement by the Secretary of the Treasury.

Extending from 10 days to 30 days the period allowed for the collection of the 99 per cent drawback on the exportation of articles imported and found not to conform to specifications or samples. The five-year period during which the drawback may be collected on imported articles manufactured and shipped to the Philippines was reduced to three years.

Permitting the Government to enter into reciprocal agreements with foreign countries relating to the free entry of advertising matter.

Making it unlawful to interfere with in any way or attempt to influence the Tariff Commission or its employees in carrying out its duties was retained. Violation carries a maximum fine of \$1,000, imprisonment for one year, or both.

Extending the prohibition against the entry of articles made or produced by convict labor, so as to include the products of forced or indentured labor. The conferees added a proviso to make the prohibition touching forced and indentured labor take effect on January 1, 1932, and to declare that it should not apply to articles which are not produced in the United States "in such quantities as to meet the consumptive demands of the United States." This would extend to such materials as rubber.

Defining United States value to be the price at which imported merchandise is freely offered for sale at the time of exportation in wholesale

quantities at the principal market with allowance for duty, cost of transportation and insurance, a commission of 6 per cent, profits of 8 per cent and an allowance for general expenses of 8 per cent.

Providing for censorship of obscene literature.

The following Senate amendments were rejected by the conferees:

Prohibiting the importation of merchandise of foreign manufacture bearing United States registered trade marks owned by a citizen or corporation of this country. Under existing law and under the conference agreement, such importations are permitted with the written consent of the owner of the trade mark.

Extending to organized labor the same right to complain, appeal or protest appraisals of imported merchandise as is now extended to the domestic manufacturer and wholesaler.

Creating a consumers' counsel in the Tariff Commission, to appear in the interest of the consuming public in any proceeding before the Commission.

Transferring, in effect, the final decision on excluding articles from importation because of alleged unfair practices, from the President to the Federal courts.

Directing that import duties shall not apply to articles where domestic production is monopolistic or price fixing.

Retaining the limitation requiring the importation of cigars in packages of more than 3,000. This restriction had been repealed by the House, but was restored by the Senate. The agreement removes the restriction.

The conferees adopted a compromise on the value to be used in assessing ad valorem duties, providing for an appeal to the Customs Court for reappraisal proceedings. In such a proceeding an affidavit by a foreigner cannot be received if he has failed to permit a Treasury attache to inspect his records as to value or classification.

Western Cannery Not to Meet This Spring

The usual spring meeting of the Western Cannery Association will not be held this year, according to an announcement by Secretary A. M. Wadsworth. The decision to hold no meeting was arrived at after consultation with the officers of the Western Cannery Association, whose general opinion is that one live, well-attended fall meeting would be preferable to holding semi-annual sessions.

Farm Board Approves Loan to Dairymen's League

The Federal Farm Board has announced its approval of an application of the Dairymen's League Cooperative Association, Inc., of New York, for a loan of not exceeding \$4,000,000. This

line of credit will enable the Association to carry out a three-year program of expanding its merchandising and handling facilities for the sale of its products. Repayment of the entire amount borrowed is required in approximately ten years. The loan will be secured by a first mortgage on the properties of the League.

The Dairymen's League Cooperative Association is an organization of about 4,000 dairy farmers of the New York milk shed, which includes all of New York State and parts of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Vermont, Massachusetts and Connecticut. This territory supplies the New York metropolitan market as well as the smaller cities throughout the area.

Exports of Canned Foods in March

During March there were decreases in the exports of canned vegetables, canned milk and sardines, as compared with the same month last year. In shipments of fruit and salmon there was no material change, while there was a considerable increase in canned meats.

The following figures, compiled from the records of the Department of Commerce, show the quantity and value of the principal canned foods exported in March, 1929, and 1930:

Articles	March, 1929		March, 1930	
	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
Canned meats, total	1,781,509	895,494	2,024,241	699,330
Beef	805,985	118,867	227,728	87,616
Pork	810,109	287,206	1,364,466	475,967
Sausage	248,716	76,884	167,074	80,198
Other	397,001	116,537	355,063	106,548
Canned vegetables, total	5,325,769	547,373	5,167,322	458,438
Asparagus	926,767	141,249	702,267	102,910
Baked beans, and pork and beans	699,430	68,578	764,532	54,850
Corn	744,338	61,610	744,580	54,191
Peas	415,774	39,464	334,305	47,681
Soups	1,545,710	186,444	1,906,447	168,465
Tomatoes	299,921	24,867	455,966	30,651
Other	966,920	87,191	959,616	59,891
Condensed milk	4,516,169	689,225	3,476,865	572,004
Evaporated milk	7,787,878	769,412	5,369,819	506,427
Canned fruits, total	28,542,952	2,635,939	25,581,648	2,610,550
Apples and applesauce	2,006,619	169,738	2,467,833	115,604
Apricots	2,026,500	191,883	2,621,508	239,022
Loganberries	576,936	52,309	251,588	25,002
Other berries	148,616	33,180	177,749	19,461
Cherries	3,324,398	471,507	2,746,468	424,325
Fruits for salad	10,508,750	829,086	7,259,448	706,631
Peaches	2,584,467	345,798	3,020,707	371,967
Pineapple	2,716,875	268,249	2,717,746	292,393
Prunes	916,612	28,587	86,416	12,311
Other	1,492,639	125,374	1,946,705	165,524
Salmon	2,908,331	480,954	2,482,928	428,054
Sardines	12,341,667	1,021,569	12,335,648	874,867

Imports of Tomato Products in March

There were decreases in imports of both canned tomatoes and tomato paste in March as compared with the same month

last year. The record of imports for the first quarter of 1929 and 1930, as compiled by the Department of Commerce, follows:

	Canned Tomatoes		Tomato Paste	
	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
1929				
January	11,584,855	691,918	858,869	117,092
February	10,070,274	605,830	821,029	116,932
March	8,923,125	525,128	773,998	112,561
Total	30,587,257	1,822,891	2,453,914	346,585
1930				
January	8,939,178	427,845	1,625,869	129,824
February	5,884,812	288,425	1,030,583	86,842
March	5,902,848	189,898	656,984	52,745
Total	17,676,839	806,178	3,313,436	279,411

Enforcement of Standard Container Act in Canada

After May 15, 1930, no jam, jelly and marmalade shall be packed in containers of other sizes than those provided by the regulations established by Order-in-Council of May 29, 1929, according to the provisions of an Order-in-Council dated April 2, 1930, forwarded to the Department of Commerce by the American Commercial Attache at Ottawa.

Detailed information regarding these regulations may be secured from the Foreign Tariffs Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce at Washington, D. C.

Poultry Used in Canning

The Market News Service of the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics has begun the issuance of monthly reports on the quantities of poultry canned or used in canning. The report for March, with comparative figures for February, follows:

	March Pounds	February Pounds
Dressed poultry canned or used in canning	1,925,346	1,929,451
Drawn poultry canned or used in canning	a 332,786	a 470,809
	2,278,132	2,399,451
Number of firms reporting	82	85

a The figures for drawn poultry have been converted to an undrawn basis, assuming a 25 per cent shrinkage in drawing.

Bids on Canned Foods Sought

The Quartermaster Supply Officer of the Army at Brooklyn is asking for bids on a considerable quantity of canned fruits and vegetables, for delivery to various posts throughout the country. The time of opening the bids is 9.00 A. M., May 7th, and copies of the schedules on which to submit bids may be obtained from the Quartermaster Supply Officer at Brooklyn, N. Y.

Truck Crop Markets

A number of additional southern states began shipping spring vegetables and berries during the week ended April 19, according to the U. S. Market News Service; but because of the decreasing movement of storage crops in the North and West, there was a net decrease of 2,000 cars in the combined movement of 24 important fruits and vegetables for the week. The total was 13,470 cars. This was 6,200 less than during the same week last season, when forwardings of cabbage, cucumbers, citrus fruits, lettuce, early onions, strawberries, tomatoes, and potatoes were much heavier than they have been recently.

California originated 145 and Texas 105 cars of carrots. Movement of string beans from Florida increased to about 100 cars, while southern Texas decreased to 105. Cucumbers shipped from Florida decreased to 50 cars. About 12 cars of cantaloupes arrived from Mexico.

As the Florida citrus season closed, shipments of grapefruit from that state dropped to 110 cars, out of the total of 155. Porto Rico sent 150 carloads to the United States. Orange movement decreased to 1,420 cars, of which Florida originated only 50 and California the other 1,370 cars.

Green peas were coming actively from central California and the season opened in Mississippi and South Carolina.

Texas spinach season was about finished, but Virginia increased sharply to 300 cars and Maryland started 25 cars.

The cabbage shipping season opened in Alabama and Louisiana. South Carolina, however, was the principal source of supply, with an average of 60 cars daily. Movement from Texas increased slightly to 240 cars, and Florida shipped 80. Total supplies from the South were scarcely half those of a year ago. Imports continued active, with 215 carloads from Holland, 22 from Denmark, and 20 from Germany.

The strawberry season opened in Arkansas, North Carolina and Mississippi, so that Louisiana and Alabama will now have competition. Louisiana shipment has increased to 400 cars for the seven-day period, while Alabama increased very sharply to 265 cars. Florida was still moving some cars.

Florida tomato shipments decreased slightly to 340 cars, but imports from Mexico had dropped to about 265. Total supplies are relatively light. Considerable damage from rain was reported in the Manatee district of Florida, and possibly not more than half the usual quantity of tomatoes will move from that section.

Movement of California asparagus dropped very suddenly to 80 cars, South Carolina shipped more than any other state, or about 150 cars, and Georgia started 35 to market. The Illinois season opened.

Movement of apples from the West had decreased to 450 cars, and that from eastern areas was only 230 cars. Western shipments were heavier, but eastern output lighter, than a year ago. Washington originated 400, New York 155, and Virginia 50 cars.

CARLOT SHIPMENTS

Commodity	April 13-19 1959	April 6-12 1959	April 14-20 1959	Total this season to April 19	Total last season to April 20	Total last season
Apples, total	682	930	697	98,803	124,413	127,530
Eastern states	333	334	341	49,978	61,397	62,708
Western states	449	596	356	48,825	63,156	64,822
Asparagus	295	421	268	1,866	1,103	2,110
Carrots	375	301	443	6,246	5,841	11,946
Cabbage	777	687	1,435	8,189	12,654	44,321
Cauliflower	200	309	283	9,312	9,736	9,898
Cucumbers	60	80	240	315	1,223	7,450
Green peas	203	173	216	1,460	1,599	5,163
Mixed vegetables						
Domestic	734	928	1,037	11,386	13,119	32,446
Imports	12	16	3	842	166	216
Pears	49	54	87	20,843	34,372	24,439
Peppers:						
Domestic	67	95	89	758	1,030	3,396
Imports	14	23	5	417	538	686
Spinach	413	329	342	8,338	8,843	10,840
Strawberries	799	410	942	2,919	4,313	18,636
String beans	206	230	335	3,333	2,674	8,691
Tomatoes:						
Domestic	339	360	348	3,101	4,995	31,948
Imports	269	410	184	6,181	5,012	5,671

Business Conditions

According to the weekly statement of the Department of Commerce for the week ended April 19, business, as indicated by the volume of check payments, was nearly 7 per cent higher than for the previous week but about 8 per cent lower than for either two weeks ago or the same week in 1929. Operations in steel plants during the latest reported week were the same as two weeks ago and a little higher than one week ago but more than 20 per cent less than a year ago.

The value of building contracts rose more than 11 per cent over last week but was markedly less than for the corresponding period of last year.

The general index of wholesale prices was fractionally less than last week and 6 per cent below than for 1929.

Bank loans and discounts at the end of the week were about the same as a week ago. Prices for stocks remained about the same for both periods while bond prices were very slightly below last week and fractionally higher than in 1929. Interest

rates remained unchanged from a week ago but still about 60 per cent lower than a year ago.

Movement of commodities by rail, as indicated by statistics covering the latest reported week, was slightly greater than the preceding week, but less than the corresponding period of a year ago.

CAR LOADINGS

	Total	Miscellaneous	Merchandise L. C. L.	Other
Week ended April 12	911,310	363,902	222,074	274,934
Preceding week	907,929	376,312	254,927	274,790
Corresponding week, 1929	973,122	414,443	266,933	291,752
Corresponding week, 1928	912,659	370,123	239,377	283,159

Canned Milk Markets

Evaporated milk markets during April remained practically unchanged from the previous month. Buyers were inclined to limit purchases more or less to actual requirements and as a result stocks in the hands of jobbers are said to be comparatively light.

Production during March, while 2.7 per cent lighter than for the same month a year ago, was 24.2 per cent heavier than for February, this increase being largely accounted for by the difference in the length of the two months. Last year the increase in production from February to March amounted to 26.1 per cent. For the first three months of the current year the production of evaporated milk was 3.4 per cent lighter than for the same period last year.

Stocks of evaporated milk on April 1 were approximately 4 per cent lighter than a month earlier, but were still about 30 per cent above those of a year ago, and over 76 per cent heavier than the five-year average stocks. During March the reduction in stocks amounted to around 6,500,000 pounds in comparison with 4,000,000 pounds a year ago, and a five-year average reduction of approximately 2,000,000 pounds.

Condensed milk markets showed but little improvement during April. April 1 stocks showed a reduction of only 3 per cent from the March holdings and were still 148 per cent heavier than on April 1 a year ago and 84 per cent heavier than the five-year average. Production during March was 7 per cent lighter than for the same month in 1929 but was 11 per cent heavier than for the previous month. For the first three months of 1930 production was approximately 2.3 per cent lighter than for the same period in 1929.

Empire Canning Council to be Formed in England

The National Food Canning Council in England has announced there is to be formed an additional body known as the Empire Canning Council, according to the American Trade Commissioner at London. The office of these organizations is also the address of the Welsh Tinplate Manufacturing Company, and announcement just referred to states that "details of the personnel and aims of the Council will be announced by Sir Edgar Jones," who is chairman of both the National Food Council and of the Welsh Tinplate Manufacturing Company.

The Empire Canning Council, it is stated, will be concerned primarily with the collection and distribution of information to assist the promotion of canneries in India, the Crown Colonies, and Dependencies. The Dominions are not included in the scheme for the present, it is stated, because in each of them there is a canning industry already established.

The following information about the home canning industry was given out at the same time as the foregoing announcement:

"Vegetable canners in Britain are making extensive arrangements for larger packs during the next summer. The increase will be particularly notable in the canning of peas. One firm at Wisbech is at the moment erecting additional buildings for trebling its output of canned peas, and will have a storage capacity of 6,000,000 cans. A new factory is also being built at Blackminister, Worcestershire, and a number of canneries devoted to other foods and fruits are adding to their plants units for the canning of peas. In the United States some 200,000 acres are devoted solely to the growing of peas for canning purposes, and in France some 70,000 acres. Leaders of the food canning industry consider that Britain ought to make efforts to reach the French acreage for peas as early as possible."

Census of Food Distribution in Louisville

The U. S. Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has issued as Distribution Cost Study No. 6 a pamphlet of 56 pages on the Louisville Grocery Survey. This pamphlet reports the census of distribution as undertaken in that city in cooperation with the Louisville Retail Grocers Association. It analyzes the classes of food products sold in Louisville, the types of stores, per capita sales, expenses of distribution, and related subjects covered in the census. Copies of the bulletin may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing office, Washington, D. C., at 15 cents each.

Bulletin Discusses Raspberries

The January-February bulletin of the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station at Wooster has as its leading article a discussion of healthy black raspberry plants. The article does not outline in detail various cultural practices or the nature and control of diseases and insects, but is designed rather to encourage the use of healthy plants.

Truck Crop Conditions

Estimates of the production of beets, carrots, cucumbers and tomatoes in certain states, for shipment as truck crops, have been issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Following are summaries of these reports:

Beets.—The early and second early commercial states (Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi) have a production forecast 26 per cent smaller than the 1929 production, although the acreage is estimated to be only 18 per cent smaller. Texas, with the same acreage as last year, has an indicated production 15 per cent smaller; Louisiana has 36 per cent less acreage due to early spring freezes, and an indicated production 46 per cent smaller; while Mississippi, with about 10 per cent less acreage, has a production indicated to be slightly larger than last year.

Carrots.—The forecast of production for the second early group of states (California, Louisiana, Mississippi) is 23 per cent below the production in 1929, and the revised estimate of acreage 26 per cent below last year's acreage. Combining the acreage and production forecast for this group of states with the previously reported fall and early states a decrease of 9 per cent below last year is indicated in both the production and acreage for this year. About 80 per cent of the total commercial acreage reported for the United States in 1929 was grown in these three groups.

Cucumbers.—The production forecast for two of the early states (Florida and Texas) is 30 per cent smaller than the 1929 production, although the estimated acreage is 8 per cent greater. While the indicated yield for Texas is about the same as last year the yield indicated for the spring crop in Florida is less than half the yield produced in 1929.

Tomatoes.—The forecast of production for the early group of states is 14 per cent below the 1929 production, although the acreage is reported to be nearly as large as the acreage grown last year. While the Imperial Valley in California, South Florida, and the Lower Valley of Texas have indicated yields per acre

ranging from 4 to 8 bushels higher than those produced last year, the yield indicated for other Florida is 44 per cent below the yield in that area last year.

Mexican West Coast Vegetable Shipments

Shipments of vegetables from the Mexican West Coast to the United States, in carloads, during the season from November to March, 1929-1930, as compared with the same period of the preceding season, are shown in the following table furnished by the American vice-consul at Nogales. Mixed vegetables as shown in this table comprise shipments of all classes of vegetables. When a full carload of the given vegetable is not available for shipment, other vegetables are filled in and the car is classified as "mixed."

	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Total
1928-29						
Tomatoes	32	297	321	951	518	2,440
Green peas	2	122	434	440	298	1,816
Green peppers	1	24	101	83	41	250
Green beans .....	..	1	11	..	1	13
Mixed .....	..	12	28	39	11	90
Total	35	556	1,115	1,513	869	4,119
1929-30						
Tomatoes .....	..	102	348	780	1,916	3,182
Green peas .....	..	338	1,000	682	154	2,194
Green peppers .....	..	12	33	42	46	133
Green beans .....	..	1	..	3	..	13
Mixed .....	..	24	50	64	6	202
Total .....	..	497	1,439	1,569	2,219	3,796

Senate Committee Reports Bill on Preserve Standards

The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, which has had under consideration the bill (S. 3470) introduced by Senator Jones defining fruit jams, preserves, jellies, etc., and providing standards therefor, on April 24 submitted a report to the Senate substituting for the Jones bill the language, with slight modifications, of the House bill (H. R. 11514) introduced by Chairman Haugen and reported by the House Committee on Agriculture on April 10.

The bill as reported out by the Senate Committee provides that the effective date of the labeling provisions in the bill, which require the labels to show the fruits used in the preparation of the products in the order of their predominance by weight, and the name of the saccharine substance used stated in terms of common usage such as "cane sugar," "beet sugar," and "corn sugar," shall be postponed until two years after the date of the enactment of the bill. The other provisions of the bill would become effective November 1, 1930.